

## The Colored American

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send or instructions.

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## THE ARMY REORGANIZATION.

The bill providing for the reorganization of the United States Army, on a larger scale, was signed by the President a few days ago. It is a very generous measure, and it affords an opportunity for those in authority to give proper recognition to the gallant boys who have won their spurs at the front. Of course, the white soldiers will be handsomely cared for, but how about the colored brother? Race prejudice has shut him out from the advantages afforded for a military education at the academy at West Point, but it has not dampened his ardor as a patriot, nor taken from him the instincts and bearing of a soldier. He maintains good discipline; drives well, and fights courageously! This has been demonstrated on many a battlefield in all the wars of the Republic. What is more, he is anxious to fight and die, if needs be, in defence of his country's flag! Why not give him a chance, not only as a private soldier in the ranks, but to shoulder the responsibility of command?

We take it, that our military establishment is anxious to bring about the best results possible under existing conditions, and will therefore avail itself of the best material at hand. The non-commissioned officers of the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry of the regular establishment, and the officers of the 48th and 49th Volunteer Infantry, many of whom have been tried, as it were, by fire, and proved worthy of a foeman's steel, could be utilized to good advantage in the reorganization of the army, and we hope that President McKinley will see to it that such action is taken as will do full justice to the members of our race who are now in the army, and who have proved themselves worthy of promotion, and who shall hereafter enlist.

If we are to have separate regiments, we want men of our own race to command those regiments. This is the sentiment of the colored people

throughout the country, and they will be greatly disappointed if their just demand is disregarded in the reorganization of the army, now about to take place.

*We sometimes talk with dull misapprehension of our inheritance, as if the mingling here of the different nationalities of the earth was a mere accident of our own time, and as if because some of our misfortunes are traceable to it we are privileged to deny to any less fortunate brother such opportunity to seek a home upon this free and beautiful continent as our ancestors enjoyed.* Gen. MacVeagh on Marshall's memory.

## THE NATIONAL CAPITAL SEARCHLIGHT.

The above is the name of the latest infant prodigy that has appeared in our midst. From all appearances it is indeed a most lusty youngster, and unless all signs fail it is destined to chisel out a brand new niche in the field of literature.

But ah me! what manifold ills are not in store for the average infant. There's the croup, colic, measles, whooping cough and a whole train of calamities—necessary concomitants of its precarious growth.

The genius who has the responsibility of plucking down the hard cash to get out each succeeding number will be able to appreciate in all its fullness the likeness of his effort to the aforementioned maladies. The splendid and really excellent first appearance of this magazine ought to insure its uninterrupted appearance without a single financial jar. But we who have been there and traversed the route, know too well what lions lie in wait by the wayside. The old saying "many came to scoff but few remained to pray" can aptly be paraphrased into "many came to read but few remained to pay" when applied to healthy mental pabulum. We wish the Searchlight luck. There is no royal road in journalism. If our infantile neighbor finds the way or has the pluck to make a way, well and good for it will find no heartier well-wisher of abundant success than The Colored American.

*Col. R. R. Church, the Afro-American money king of Memphis, Tenn., sets a splendid example of "getting together" by writing his check for \$1,000 for the fund to cover the expense of the meeting of the Confederate veterans in that city in May next.*

The Colored American is responsible for the statement that the inaugural committee, which will conduct the ceremonies on March 4th, has wholly ignored the colored man and brother—Dallas Express.

Yes, Mr. Kig not only this but since the colored people have been excluded from the platform of the inaugural festivities they have started a local social war among themselves. The Colored American can only guarantee to Texans of African descent who intend coming to the nation's Capital to witness the inaugural hippodrome, a place to eat, a place to sleep and plenty of room on the sidewalks.

*A colored veteran talks wisely in today's issue of this paper on the opportunities for colored men in the army.*

Prof. Booker T. Washington's advice to "make friends with your neighbor and get the respect and confidence of the white people among whom you live," is ably seconded by Col. R. R. Church of Memphis, Tenn.

The Colored American is the first Negro publication that has been accepted by the American News Company and its branches throughout the United States and Canada. Friends of the race as well as friends of the paper can do it a service by calling at any and every news stand and purchasing a copy of it. Make a demand for it.

In another column of this issue of The Colored American a review is given of the work of Mr. Thomas H. Wright, as an Odd Fellow, a factor in the church and as a citizen. Odd Fellowship has no stronger agent than Thos. H. Wright. He has made all the fortunes of that great order in the District of Columbia and Odd Fellows Hall on M street is a monument to his untiring industry and executive ability. The account is so comprehensive and gives so minutely the work accomplished by Mr. Wright, that further comment is not necessary. The race needs more men of the Thos. H. Wright ilk.

## HE SIGNS ALL MONEY.

The Career of Hon. Judson W. Lyons—The Register of the United States Treasury Reviewed—An Interesting Story of a Boy Born in the Dark Days Who Has Risen to Eminence and Leadership.

The propriety of writing critically of a man during his life time has been seriously questioned. It is seriously urged that no estimate, worthy the name, can be formed of the character of a public man, until his career has been completed, until his life has come to a close. However true this contention may be for the purpose of permanent history, it has no true relation to current affairs or to temporary thought. Public men sustain such close relation to the people whom they represent, and the interest of the people in their representatives is so lively and scrutinizing, that there is constant demand for information, even to the smallest detail of private life, concerning those to whom great interests are committed.

While the public career of Judson W. Lyons in his national aspect may be said to have only fairly begun, yet the relation which he sustains to the country in general, and to his own people in particular, focuses attention upon him as it does upon few men in the republic. The laborer on the farm and in the mine, the toiler in the various pursuits of life, the worker in the factory, the merchant, the banker, the capitalist of industry, the capitalist at home, the investor abroad—in a word whoever handles any of the currency of the United States, or any of its securities sees inscribed on their face the name of J. W. Lyons. The Register of the Treasury carries with it the political supremacy of the colored race in the United States. No man of either race has ever held the position who has not demonstrated qualities of leadership of a high order, and whose character and not be subjected to the closest investigation.

The present Register of the Treasury Judson W. Lyons, meets both of these requirements. In the almost forty three years of his life, during romance and solid, sturdy, progressive achievement will be found blended in equal proportion. Born in Burke county, Georgia, in 1858, the year in which Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas were debating on the prairies of Illinois, those mighty questions that a little later divided the country in two warring camps, his life seems to have taken its impetus and direction from that event. The close of the Civil War found him a child of tender years, but fostered by the hopes and prayers and struggles of a loving mother, half conscious of the career that was to open before him. The first four years of his education was obtained in the country of his nativity. Subsequently moving to Augusta, Georgia, in which city he resided until his appointment as Register of the Treasury, he attended night school for a time and then matriculated at the Augusta Institute

now the Baptist College at Atlanta, Georgia. The primary object of the institution was the preparation of young colored men for the ministry, but owing to the lack of preliminary training on the part of applicants for admission to its course in theology, branches of a common school and preparatory education were also taught. Mr. Lyons was a student at the Baptist Institute for six years, and although having no purpose to adopt the ministry as a calling, pursued the study of theology along with the other young men because the faculty of the institute required it. He has never regretted his excursion into the field of theology, but has often expressed the opinion that these studies had much to do in forming his character, and fixing in his life a serious purpose. His legal education was obtained at the Howard University Law school, from which institution he was graduated in 1884. Soon after his return to Georgia, he was admitted to the practice of the law at the Richmond county bar, and for fourteen years practiced his profession winning fame, and the confidence and respect of the courts, members of the bar and his fellow citizens.

Mr. Lyons' political career embraces a short experience as a newspaper editor, numerous elections as delegate to county, congressional, state and national conventions, once candidate for Congress, once candidate as elector at large, two terms as National Committeeman of his state, and Register of the Treasury. He is the only colored member of the present Republican National Committee.

Nature placed the sign and seal of leadership upon Judson W. Lyons in every element of his constitution. His physique and dignity make him the observed of all observers in any gathering. Tall, erect, easy of carriage, compact and well-proportioned, he would be the delight of any artist in search of a perfect model of the "human form divine." The description that a celebrated man gave of Daniel Webster can appropriately be made to describe the physical appearance of Mr. Lyons: "Webster came home to Faneuil Hall to protest against the breaking up of the Whig party, and four thousand Whigs came out to meet him. He lifted up his majestic presence before that sea of human faces, his brow charged with thunder and said, 'Gentlemen I am a Whig; a Massachusetts Whig; a Revolutionary Whig; a Constitutional Whig; a Faneuil Hall Whig; and if you break up the Whig party where am I to go?' And says Lowell, 'we all held our breath, thinking where he could go.' But says Lowell, 'if he had been five feet three we should have said, 'Confound you, who do you suppose cares where you go?' Lyons' magnificent statue suggests all this.

His mind is cast in a like mold. His reasoning is strong, cogent and convincing. He possesses infinite patience and self control. He never loses his temper. He is absolutely proof against excitement; hence he speaks with discrimination and deliberation. He never goes off "half cocked;" hence he never has to explain or to retract. The years he has given to the practice of the law have developed in him a marked talent for details. When he once takes up a subject he studies it as closely as Napoleon studied the map of the seat of war. This trait of mind is a part of his well earned success. During the last presidential campaign the amount of really fundamental, unseen work that he did was enormous. Although he made a number of speeches in the campaign that were notable and powerful as vote getters, yet the work he did in the way of furnishing data which a thousand orators might weave into speeches; in giving counsel as to tactical and strategic movements, and in watching critical positions, far exceeded these in value and in actual results.

His advice was sought in every movement that had reference to the colored vote, and the large recognition that both press and speakers received was in part the result of his counsels and recommendations. Much of the literature circulated among colored voters was prepared under his direction and supervision. His tact, conservatism and grasp of conditions have given him a prestige and standing among the men that rule the destinies of the nation that could only come from a recognition of these qualities. Here-

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